

## Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-03

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DRAFTED BY:AF/W:SFPATRICK

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R 120506Z FEB 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 034644

FOLLOWING TELEGRAM FROM LAGOS DATED FEBRUARY 9, 1976 SENT  
SECSTATE WASHDC IS REPEATED TO YOU: QUOTE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AO, NI, US

SUBJECT: WASHINGTON POST REPORT ON GARBA PRESS CONFERENCE

REF: STATE 30983

1. NIGERIAN PRESS ACCOUNTS OF GARBA MEETING WITH POURNALISTS  
DIFFERS SOMEWHAT FROM THAT CARRIED BY "WASHINGTON POST" (REFTEL).  
ACCORDING "NEW NIGERIAN" (UNDER HEADLINES "U.S. HARDLY HAS ANY  
POLICY IN AFRICA -GARBA"), NIGERIAN EXTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMISSIONER  
TOLD PRESS THAT HE AND SECRETARY HAD NOT DISCUSSED CONCRETE  
SOLUTION TO THE ANGULAN ISSUE "...WE DO NOT SEE EYE-TO-EYE  
ON THE MATTER..." BUT DID AGREE TO "KEEP IN TOUCH". GARBA,  
ACCORDING NIGERIAN PRESS, SAID THAT SECRETARY HAD TOLD HIM HE HAD  
NOTHING AGAINST THE MPLA AND IF RPT IF IT BECAME NECESSARY, THE UNITE  
D  
STATES WOULD SHIFT ITS POLICY OF SUPPORTING THE OTHER TWO  
RIVAL ANGOLAN FACTIONS. BUT THE STORY THEN NOTES  
THAT IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION, GARBA SAID DR. KISSINGER  
HAD GIVEN NO RPT NO SIGN OF A POLICY CHANGE "BUT IT (A CHANGE)  
WOULD BE A SHIFT IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION IF HE WERE TO DO SO  
(MAKE A CHANGE)".

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2. IN VIEW ABOVE, IT APPEARS THAT VERSION OF GARBA'S

PRESS CONFERENCE AS REPORTED BY NIGERIAN PRESS IS MORE ACCURATE DESCRIPTION OF GARBA/KISSINGER CONVERSATION THAN THE "WASHINGTON POST" ACCOUNT (REFTEL). GARBA APPARENTLY HAS NOT YET RETURNED TO LAGOS FROM U.S. AND LONDON (ACCORDING ONE SOURCE HE DUE BACK TOMORROW OR WEDNESDAY). IT UNLIKELY THAT ANY DEMARCHE WE MIGHT MAKE, IN ABSENCE GARBA'S FIRST HAND REPORT (AS OF LAST FRIDAY, MINISTRY EXTERNAL AFFAIRS HAD RECEIVED NO RPT NO INFORMATION ABOUT MEETING), WOULD BE CONSIDERED APPROPRIATE BY MEA.

3. IN VIEW ABOVE CONSIDERATIONS, WE RECOMMEND AGAINST MAKING DEMARCHE TO FMG REQUESTED REFTEL. IG DEPARTMENT BELIEVES IT NECESSARY THAT NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT BE REMINDED OUR ANGOLAN POLICY HAS NOT CHANGED (WHICH IS WHAT GARBA SAID ACCORDING NIGERIAN PRESS)N WE SUGGEST AMBASSADOR SANU (WHO WAS PRESENT AT MEETING) BE CALLED IN AND GIVEN THE WORD. EASUM UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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